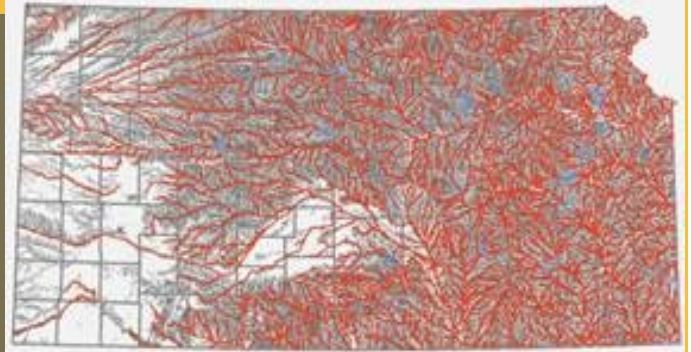
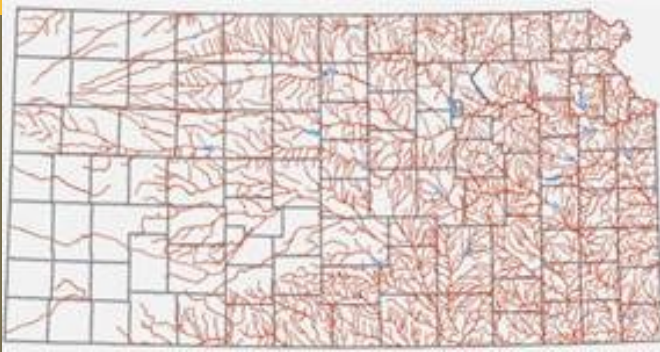




NOTES FROM THE RANGE

Oct. 30, 2014



Left: Streams and bodies of water currently subject to EPA regulation. **Right:** Waters that will fall under EPA jurisdiction if the proposed rule change under the Clean Water Act goes into effect — a 460 percent increase in federally regulated stream miles.

Protecting Kansans from Federal Overreach

As part of an ongoing effort to protect the people of Kansas from the EPA's attempt to extend its regulatory reach, the State of Kansas has filed formal comments with the agency protesting proposed "clarifications" regarding which bodies of water are covered under the Clean Water Act.

The EPA's draft rule includes absurdly broad definitions that attempt to bring ponds, puddles, and ditches under EPA jurisdiction. It would expand the number of federally regulated stream miles from 30,620 to 174,410 miles— a 460 percent increase.

Such a massive expansion of federal interference would negatively affect Kansas farmers, ranchers, and business owners. This unlawful and unconstitutional attempt to assert federal jurisdiction over local water and land use would make it impossible for farmers, developers and homeowners to know when they can carry on routine activities without obtaining an extremely expensive federal permit.

The EPA has failed to take into account that Kansas already has adequate laws in place to protect waters that fall under state jurisdiction,

making the proposed federal regulation a redundant and costly infringement on the state's jurisdiction without providing any significant benefits.

Kansans have had enough of this kind of federal overreach, and that is why five of my cabinet secretaries and I signed a letter urging the EPA to retract the proposed rule. Rather than implement such a misguided and heavy-handed regulatory approach, the federal government should acknowledge and respect our jurisdiction over lands and waters within our borders.

As Kansans, we can manage our water resources better and more efficiently without federal interference. My administration will continue to fight back against this continued pattern of disregard for business, industry and farm and ranch families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Braunback".

Governor announces plans to improve infrastructure

Governor Brownback and Kansas Dept. of Transportation (KDOT) Secretary Mike King announced the state's commitment to two new highway expansion projects this month.

The first project, a six-mile segment known as the "Arma connection," will involve the four-lane expansion of U.S. 69 from Fort Scott to Arma.

Southeast Kansans and U.S. 69 advocates have sought this expansion for years. Its completion will help improve safety for local residents as well as the hundreds of Johnson County and Kansas City area students who attend Pittsburg State University.



Above: Governor Sam Brownback announces the U.S. 69 expansion project with KDOT Secretary Mike King.

The second project is a cooperative effort between KDOT, the Kansas Turnpike Authority, and the City of Wichita to expand U.S. 54 and Kellogg.

State of Kansas taking precautions against Ebola

While Kansas has had no confirmed Ebola cases, the Governor has directed the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and other state agencies to take immediate steps to protect Kansans from the disease.

On Oct. 28, KDHE and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) hosted a briefing and discussion involving leadership from many state agencies. The purpose of the exercise was to ensure the state is prepared and can respond quickly and effectively in the event of a case of Ebola in Kansas.



Above: State epidemiologist Charlie Hunt briefs agency leaders during a planning meeting on Ebola preparation.

In addition, Governor Brownback has ordered additional actions and resources be made available in the event of an actual case of Ebola in Kansas, including:

- Directing the state to create a special response team that would respond quickly to any suspected Ebola case in the state.
- Identifying \$4 Million that could be used in the event of an emergency.
- Calling on the federal government to provide an emergency clean-up team and federal disposal of Ebola-related waste.

KDHE is working diligently with local public health officials and hospitals cross the state to ensure readiness in the event of an Ebola case.

It is important to remember that Ebola is not spread through air, water or food. It is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids of someone infected

For more information about Ebola, visit www.kdheks.gov/ebola and www.cdc.gov/ebola

Pictures From the Road



Kansas Veterans' Home — Located in Winfield, the facility celebrated the grand opening of Triplett Hall earlier this month with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house. This expansion will allow the Veterans' Home to provide services for 142 in nursing care and 48 in assisted living. This facility does a great job of serving those who have served our state and nation.



Big Red One Deployment Ceremony — I was honored to support our soldiers as they prepared to deploy to Iraq. My thoughts and prayers go with them, and I know they will continue to uphold their tradition of courage and excellence.



Minority Enterprise Development Week Awards Luncheon — These entrepreneurs have accomplished great things and make valuable contributions to their communities and the Kansas economy. Their hard work and dedication are truly inspiring.



Read Kansas Read Reception — Top readers from all over the state, along with their families, were invited to Cedar Crest for a lunch reception. These students logged thousands of minutes reading over the summer. It was wonderful to see their strong commitment to reading, whether in or out of the classroom.



Home on the Range Cabin Rededication — Believed to be the site where Dr. Brewster M. Higley wrote the poem that later became known as "Home on the Range," the cabin has been restored. Lt. Gov. Colyer visited this important piece of Kansas history and served as the featured speaker for the rededication ceremony.